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AUTHOR	Crossley, Rosemary
TITLE	Speechless: Facilitating Communication for People without Voices.
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ABSTRACT

This book describes work that has been done with verbally impaired individuals (autism, brain surgery, Down's Syndrome) who are unable to use language to convey even the simplest idea. The book points out that such people are not necessarily strangers to language, they just have not found a way to express themselves. The work discussed in the book has given verbally impaired persons the tools to communicate. Through the use of computer technology, a dedicated teacher developed a technique in which pictures, words, and letters displayed on a computer keyboard or screen could be manipulated and combined by the patient to express himself or herself. This "facilitated communication" technique has enabled the teacher to interpret the previously unutterable thoughts, emotions, and stories of her patients. The book tells the stories of many patients trying to break through to the use of language--these stories will make readers rethink the definitions of communication and mental retardation, as well as remind them how much can be gained by listening to those who have been kept silent. (Contains a glossary of terms used, a list of resources for further reading, a bibliography, and an index.) (NKA)

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